DAWN

METRO South

KARACHI Wednesday, November 19, 2025

KARACHI

Sunset	05:44pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	06:50am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	15°C
Maximum	30°C
Humidity	49%
Outlook	Sunny

Fakhar, Usman steer Pakistan to win over Zimbabwe

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Two bikers killed by heavy vehicles

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Reckless and negligent driving claimed the lives of two young men in the metropolis on Tuesday, police and rescue services officials said.

A traffic police official said that an unidentified man in his 20s was riding a motorcycle when a water tanker hit him near Do Minute Chowrangi in North Karachi. He sustained critical injuries and was transported to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead.

The tanker driver managed to escape from the spot, leaving behind the heavy vehicle, which was damaged by an angry mob.

The tanker was impounded by the Bilal Colony police. The police claimed the tanker was fitted with a tracker.

In another incident, a man, identified as Mohammed Nawaz, 27, was hit and killed by a trailer near Pakistan Kanta on Northern Bypass, an Edhi Foundation spokesperson said. The body was shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

Man shot dead, woman hurt

A man was shot dead and a woman was critically injured in an armed attack on a car in Bhittaiabad on Tuesday evening, according to police.

Malir Cantonment police SHO,Agha Abdul Rasheed said the couple was traveling in the car when two assailants riding a motorcycle started indiscriminate firing on them.

As a result, the man, identified as Asghar Majeed Bijarani, 45, was killed on the spot. His woman companion suffered critical bullet wounds and was shifted to the JPMC for treatment.

Traffic police began issuing speeding fines without 'fixed speed limits' on city roads

• DIG says speed limits for different roads to be set after completion of road safety, engineering audit • Police say prior to launch of e-challan system, citywide speed limit for cars, motorcycles, etc was 30km/h • In first phase, 60km/h limit set for cars, bikes and LTVs on Sharea Faisal • Many believe top speed on city's main artery is 'ok for bikers but too slow for cars'

By Imtiaz Ali

KARACHI: The newly introduced automated e-ticketing system appears to have been launched in haste as traffic authorities have issued hundreds of challans for speeding, but they are yet to set the speed limit for vehicles on major thoroughfares, it emerged on Tuesday.

Last week, authorities had installed speed limit signs on Sharea Faisal, despite the fact that the traffic police had already issued 1,967 tickets for speeding within the first week (from Oct 27 to Nov 3) of the launch of the Traffic Regulation and Citation System (Tracs).

The traffic police said they are in the process of fixing speed limits for vehicles on different arteries in the metropolis and in the first phase they set 60 kilometres per hour (km/h) on Sharea Faisal for all cars, motorbikes and light transport vehicles (LTVs) and 30 km/h for heavy transport vehicles (HTVs).

DIG Traffic Pir Mohammed Shah conceded that at present "road-specific speed limits" were not notified.

"A comprehensive road safety and engineering audit including assessment of road geometry, access points, pedestrian activity, and traffic flow is under way," he told *Dawn*. "Once the audit is completed, revised and road-specific speed limits will be notified."

He said that currently a uniform, but interim, speed limit is in place for all roads in the metropolis.

"At present, the citywide speed limit for HTVs is 60 km/h, while for cars, motorcycles and LTV it is 30 km/h," he said. However, he did not know when this speed limit had been fixed or whether it had ever been revised.

Asked as to how fines were imposed over speeding violation, the DIG claims: "Limits were displayed from the day 1 through digital boards on all digital streamers across the city."

VEHICLES move past newly installed speed limit signs on Sharea Faisal.—Fahim Siddiqi / White Star

DIG defends speed limit on signal-free Sharea Faisal

People using Sharea Faisal for their daily commute are expressing their surprise over the speed limit of 60 km/h, saying the road is almost signal free from Hotel Metropole traffic intersection to Karachi Airport.

Many people are of the view that the speed limit makes sense for motorcyclists, but for cars, 60 km/h is too slow on a signal-free road.

A senior official, requesting anonymity, told *Dawn* that Sharea Faisal is used for VVIP traffic and vehicles part of their motorcade drive at the minimum speed of 100 km/h.

"The speed limit should have been 80 km/h for LTVs and cars and 60 km/h for motorbikes," he said.

However, the DIG Traffic told *Dawn* the speed limit was fixed keeping in view road safety, and not traffic flow alone.

He said although Sharea Faisal now functions as a signal-free corridor, "it remains a mixed-traffic urban artery, with multiple entry/exit points, pedestrian activity at certain locations, service lanes, and merging traffic from side roads".

"Higher speed will significantly increase the likelihood and severity of accidents," he said.

He believed that the 60 km/h limit was in line with "international standards for urban expressways where pedestrian and mixed-use interactions still exist".

"Our goal is to maintain smooth traffic movement while prioritising the safety of commuters, motorcyclists and pedestrians," DIG Shah said.

He said that the 30 km/h speed limit for heavy vehicles was due to their "size, braking distance and impact force", which posed a significantly higher risk at high speeds.

"Even at night, Sharea Faisal continues to have private traffic, motorcyclists, and ride-hailing vehicles, and any high-speed accident involving a heavy vehicle can be catastrophic," he said.

Murder case registered after newly-wed woman found dead in DHA

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A newly-wed woman was found dead in Defence Housing Authority (DHA) and her family registered a murder case against unknown persons, officials said.

South DIG Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn* that the body of 17-year-old Zainab was found on the rooftop of a residential building in Badar Commercial, Phase-V.

He said she, along with her husband, arrived in Karachi two weeks ago from Sialkot and were residing at their aunt's flat.

On Monday evening, the girl reportedly went to the rooftop of the building and did not come back. Her aunt went upstairs and found her unconscious near a water tank. She was taken to a nearby private clinic in DHA and later to a hospital in Clifton, where doctors pronounced her dead.

Later, the body was shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) for medico-legal formalities. "A dupatta was knotted twice around her neck," the DIG added.

The officer said the police are investigating the matter as the deceased woman's father alleged that his daughter was murdered by strangulation. He said that some close relatives of the woman were taken into custody for questioning.

Later, the Darakhshan police registered a murder case on the complaint of her father against unknown persons.

The complainant told the police that he received information from a relative at 7:30pm that his daughter's health had deteriorated and she was being taken to Ziauddin Hospital in Clifton. He was about to go to the hospital when he received another call from the relative, informing him that his daughter had died and her body was being taken to the JPMC.

He said he was informed at the JPMC's emergency by the relative of his son-in-law that around 4pm to 5pm on Monday, his daughter went to the roof of the apartment and did not return after a considerable time.

The complainant said that unidentified person(s) had strangulated his daughter due to unknown reasons, and he wanted legal proceedings against them.

Four 'LJ militants' held in CTD operation

KARACHI: The Counter-Terrorism Department claimed to have arrested four suspected militants belonging to the outlawed Lashkar-i-Jhangvi for their alleged involvement in targeted killings on sectarian grounds.

A CTD spokesperson said in a statement that acting on a tip-off an intelligence-based operation was conducted in the city in which Amin, alias Munnah, Asim Ahmed, Zainul Abidin and Mohammed Afroz were arrested.

It said that they belonged to the outlawed LJ's Hafiz Qasim Rasheed group. Four pistols were recovered from their custody, the statement added.

During initial investigations, held suspects disclosed that they had killed many people including police informers in Orangi Town.

Regarding their past criminal record, the CTD statement said the suspects were booked in several cases pertaining to terrorism and other heinous crimes.

The suspects also told investigators that they were involved in contract killings.—Staff Reporter

Ordinance granting exclusive jurisdiction to CBs over all matters under Article 199 challenged

• Petitioner says provision of recusal and misconduct 'encroached upon constitutional scheme for judicial accountability' • Constitutional Benches of High Court of Sindh (Practice and Procedure) Ordinance promulgated

By Ishaq Tanoli

KARACHI: A petition was filed in the Sindh High Court on Tuesday against a recently promulgated ordinance empowering the constitutional benches of the high court with exclusive jurisdiction over constitutional matters as every petition or application falling within Article 199 of the Constitution will be heard and decided solely by these benches.

Petitioner Barrister Ali Tahir moved the SHC and stated in the petition that the promulgation of the Constitutional Benches of High Court of Sindh (Practice and Procedure) Ordinance, 2025 had caused a significant intervention in administration and adjudication of constitutional matters within the SHC by the executive.

Citing the province through the Sindh chief secretary and law secretary as respondents, he submitted that the impugned ordinance had been published in the Sindh Government Gazette on November 15 and it purported to regulate constitution, jurisdiction, administration and procedure of the constitutional benches which were established in November last year under the 26th Constitutional Amendment.

He stated that as per the ordinance, any recusal or refusal by a judge nominated for constitutional benches "will prima facie amount to misconduct" and mandated referral to the Supreme Judicial Council.

He pleaded to strike down the impugned ordinance on the grounds that the same has allegedly transgressed constitutional limits, exceeded the legislative competence of the provincial assembly and violated the guarantees of judicial independence.

The petitioner stated that Article 202-A(6) was inserted after the 27th Constitutional Amendment allowing the provincial assembly to regulate functioning of the constitutional benches of the SHC, but there was no pressing emergency to bypass legislative process especially when the matter related to a judicial reform and it constituted a violation of the rule of law and parliamentary sovereignty.

The petitioner also maintained that the impugned ordinance was not issued by the governor, instead it was pushed

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Key Hyderabad hospital operating without dedicated burns ICU

• Patients with over 50pc burns are routinely transferred from Liaquat University Hospital to Karachi

• Health secretary informed of lack of burns unit, but to no avail, says LUH doctor

• Even regular ICUs remain overburdened due to shortage of equipment, trained staff

By Mohammad Hussain Khan

HYDERABAD: Despite multiple deadly fire and explosion incidents in recent years, Liaquat University Hospital (LUH) Hyderabad, Sindh's second-largest tertiary care facility, continues to operate without a dedicated burns Intensive Care Unit (ICU), even though it was part of the original project.

The hospital's other ICUs are also burdened by a shortage of equipment and trained staff. The existing conditions at the hospital are, therefore, dire for patients requiring critical care.

Hyderabad has faced three major fire and explosion tragedies since 2022, during which more than 40 people have lost their lives. In the most recent incident, an explosion at a fireworks factory on Nov 15, 2025, 10 people have died so far, once again exposing LUH's deficiencies.

Two critically injured patients with severe burns had to be shifted to Karachi, where they later died due to severe organ damage, according to doctors at LUH and the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi. Even during past incidents, burn patients have been routinely transferred to Karachi during emergencies.

A city of around three million people, Hyderabad also receives patients from several districts of lower and upper Sindh areas, where specialised facilities are unavailable. Doctors at LUH admit that they get "panicked" while engaging in burn emergencies. On Nov 15, an Additional Medical Superintendent even declared a blast victim dead in front of the media while he was still alive, later correcting the statement.

The burns ward, which is a result of 2016–17 PC-I, lacks basic machinery and equipment. Hospital sources claimed that its machinery and equipment were not procured because those were "apparently not made part of the Schedule of New Expenditures (SNE)."

The condition is so dire that its registrar, Dr Roshan Chandio, who is also the president of Young Doctors Association Sindh, made an emotional appeal on social media, and urged philanthropists and Hyderabad's residents to "come forward and donate" instead of simply criticising the government.

"You are talking about a burns ICU, but we can barely run the ICUs for surgery and medicine because we don't have technical staff," a frustrated LUH doctor told *Dawn* on condition of anonymity. "Every health secretary, including the current one, has been informed, but no one takes it seriously. Human lives simply don't seem to matter."

Although a separate ICU was included in LUH's new four-storey building, it never became functional. Instead, a high-dependency unit (HDU) was created, but it can only handle patients with minor burns. Those with burns over 50 per cent are routinely referred to Karachi. "Even managing the HDU is difficult. We need trained staff, sanitary workers and security," said a hospital worker.

Dr Chandio said that he and his colleagues are personally paying the salary of one dresser and a security guard. He urged people to help develop the burns ward along the lines of the Burns Centre at Karachi's Civil Hospital. He added that LUH's lab cannot provide all the required tests free of cost and crowd control remains a major issue.

After the May 30, 2024 incident, the health department had formed a committee to look into the missing burns ICU, but no progress has been made. "I took charge recently and was told a committee existed, but no one knows what happened afterwards," said Medical Superintendent Dr Ershad Kazmi.

Staff at the burns ward say they need at least three doctors in the morning and two each in the evening and night shifts along with trained technicians for a functional ICU. Even a shower trolley cannot be used because the staff are not trained. Overall, LUH ICUs require 20 respiratory therapists, 60 technicians, and 50 nurses, none of whom are currently available.

ICU staff also shared that burn patients have very specific needs, and keeping them in a general medical ICU risks dangerous infections. The burns ICU requires separate cubicles for each patient, unlike standard ICUs. The hospital plans to convert the HDU into an ICU, but staff warn that this will not be adequate.

Dr Kazmi emphasised that the burns ICU needs a proper heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system to prevent the spread of harmful microorganisms. "Without proper ventilation, infections can become life-threatening for both patients and staff," he said.